Claim 7 has been amended as follows:

C3 Cont'd

7. (Amended) A process for preparing a beneficial ~~microorganism~~ propagation-promoting material ~~according~~ to Claim 5, wherein said beneficial ~~microorganism is~~ at least one selected from *Eumycetes*, lactic acid bacteria and bifidobacteria.

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 5 and 7 and canceled claims 3, 6 and 8 without prejudice. Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments to the claims are supported by the application as originally filed and do not contain any new matter. Still further, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims as amended would not be properly rejected based upon the art of record in the parent application.

In view of the above, therefore, it is respectfully requested that this Preliminary Amendment be entered, favorably considered and the case passed to issue.

Please charge any additional costs incurred by or in order to implement this Amendment or required by any requests for extensions of time to KODA & ANDROLIA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 11-1445.

Respectfully submitted,

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Certificate of Transmission

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office Fax No. (703) 308-4242 on April 25, 2001.

William L. Androlia
Name

_____ 4/25/2001
Signature Date

Application No. 09/284,935

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (amended) has been amended as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A beneficial microorganism propagation-promoting material which promotes propagation of a beneficial microorganism that helps to sustain the health of living beings, said material being obtained by steps of inoculating koji mold on grains to create a koji preparation resultant, adding [at most 50% by weight of] water to said resultant to thereby hydrolyze proteins and/or saccharides contained in said resultant, during said hydrolysis said koji mold and beneficial microorganisms contained in said resultant and/or added to the resultant are symbiotic in the resultant and propagation of said beneficial microorganisms is promoted when the beneficial microorganisms receives nutrients from the resultant so that said koji mold and said beneficial microorganisms are cultivated together in said resultant, and removing a predetermined amount of phytic acid contained in said grains [hydrolized proteins and/or saccharides].

Claim 2 (amended) has been amended as follows:

2. (Twice Amended) A beneficial microorganism propagation-promoting material comprising a mixture of:

a product for promoting a propagation of beneficial microorganisms that help to substain the health of living beings obtained by inoculating koji mold on grains to create a koji preparation resultant, adding [at most 50% by weight of] water to said resultant to thereby hydrolyze proteins and/or saccharides contained in said resultant, during said hydrolysis said koji mold and said beneficial microorganisms contained in said resultant and/or added to the resultant are symbiotic in the resultant and propagation of said beneficial microorganisms is promoted when said beneficial microorganisms receive nutrients from the resultant so that said koji mold and said beneficial microorganisms are cultivated together in said resultant, and removing a predetermined amount of phytic acid contained in said grains; and

resistant starch becoming a nutrient of lactic acid bacteria that can grow in the intestines of domestic animals.

Cancel claim 3 without prejudice.

Claim 5 (amended) has been amended as follows:

5. (Twice Amended) A process for preparing a beneficial microorganism propagation-promoting material which promotes propagation of a beneficial microorganism that helps to sustain the health of living beings, said process comprising the steps of:

inoculating koji mold on grains to create a koji preparation resultant, adding [at most 50% by weight of] water to said resultant to thereby hydrolyze proteins and/or saccharides contained in said resultant, during said hydrolysis said koji mold and said beneficial microorganisms contained in said resultant and/or added to said resultant are symbiotic in the resultant and propagation of said beneficial microorganisms is promoted when said beneficial microorganisms receive nutrients from said resultant so that said koji mold and said beneficial microorganisms are cultivated together in said resultant, and

removing a predetermined amount of phytic acid contained in said hydrolyzed proteins and/or saccharides.

Cancel claim 6 without prejudice.

Cancel claim 8 without prejudice.

Claim 7 has been amended as follows:

7. (Amended) A process for preparing a beneficial microorganism propagation-promoting material according to Claim 5 [or 6], wherein said beneficial microorganism is at least one selected from *Eumycetes*, lactic acid bacteria and bifidobacteria.